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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES FOR  
DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER  
RELIEF ASSISTANCE

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Second regular session of 1988  
Agenda items 2, 15 and 16  
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL POLICY, INCLUDING  
REGIONAL AND SECTORAL  
DEVELOPMENTS  
SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN  
AND DISASTER RELIEF  
ASSISTANCE  
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR  
DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 11 July 1988 from the Head of the Delegation of  
the German Democratic Republic to the Economic and Social  
Council at its second regular session of 1988 addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic entitled "Assistance rendered by the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1987" (see annex).

I kindly request you to have this communication circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 82, 84 and 86 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda items 2, 15 and 16 of its second regular session of 1988.

(Signed) Peter DIETZE  
Head of Delegation,  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary

\* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Assistance rendered by the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1987

1. The German Democratic Republic actively supports the just struggle of the developing countries for social progress and economic independence. It shapes its economic relations with Asian, African and Latin American States on the basis of the principles of equality of rights, respect for sovereignty, non-discrimination, mutual benefit and non-interference in internal affairs. An integral part of this equality based economic co-operation is the provision of comprehensive material and financial assistance to developing countries and national liberation movements.

Co-operation with developing countries and practical assistance are aimed, in particular, at promoting the full development of their economic potentials, notably the development of an industrial basis and an efficient agriculture.

2. On the basis of the continued dynamic growth of its national economy, the GDR provided support to developing countries and national liberation movements also in 1987. That assistance was worth 2,322.9 million marks, which is an increase of 80.1 million marks over 1986. It represents 0.89 per cent of the national income produced in the GDR in 1987 or approximately 0.7 per cent in terms of GNP. That support included aid and services rendered in the economic, scientific, technological, cultural and humanitarian fields.

3. An important part of solidarity assistance to countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America is basic and advanced training of skilled personnel from these countries in the GDR.

In 1987 alone, 6,548 nationals from developing countries were undergoing vocational training or further training (excluding higher and technical education) at enterprises or institutions of the GDR; 2,892 nationals started vocational training or upgrading courses; 3,046 foreign nationals completed such training or courses in the GDR.

Thus, some 91,000 nationals from developing countries have received vocational training in the GDR since 1970.

At the beginning of 1988, a total of 3,645 nationals from developing countries were undergoing vocational training or upgrading courses at enterprises or institutions of the GDR. In line with the needs of these countries, training is provided primarily in various industries, in agriculture and forestry, public education, the planning and management of economic processes at the national level, in mining and journalism.

In addition, more than 47,000 nationals from Viet Nam, Mozambique, Angola and Cuba, working in enterprises and institutions in the GDR under relevant agreements, received training in 1987.

In 1987, 1,979 nationals from developing countries graduated from universities, colleges or technical schools in the GDR, while 1,971 took up studies at such institutions. Thus, the total number of graduates from these countries in the GDR since 1970 rose to about 23,900. At the beginning of 1988, 7,382 students from Asian, African and Latin American countries were enrolled in institutions of higher learning in the GDR, mainly for mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, electronics, agricultural sciences, transport and communications, economics, civil engineering, pedagogics and medicine.

4. Through the secondment of experts, the GDR directly assists developing countries in the elaboration and implementation of programmes and projects crucial to the development of their national economies and the training of national skilled personnel in those countries. Since 1970, some 25,100 specialists funded by the GDR have worked in developing countries, notably as government advisers, economists, physicians and other medical personnel, engineers, teachers and vocational instructors. In 1987, 1,538 GDR experts took up their assignments in developing countries. At the beginning of 1988, 832 experts and advisers were working in those countries.

5. In 1987, too, funds were allocated for the provision of medical care to nationals from developing countries. Last year, 1,046 patients from these States and from national liberation movements received free out-patient or in-patient treatment in the GDR. Between 1970 and 1987, approximately 8,400 nationals from developing countries stayed for free medical treatment, including hospitalization, in the GDR. Medical care is provided free of charge also to nationals from developing countries who are undergoing vocational or further training, or who are studying in the GDR.

6. As in the past, the GDR rendered emergency assistance to help alleviate the consequences of natural disasters and other emergency situations. Relief supplies were sent, inter alia, to China, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Angola, Afghanistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, consisting of medicaments, vaccines, clothing and first-aid kits. In response to the appeal of the Secretary-General, the GDR granted extensive aid to Mozambique.

7. The GDR regards assistance to the economically least developed countries (LDC) as an important task.

In 1987, 604 nationals from these countries graduated from universities, colleges or technical schools of the GDR; 1,040 nationals completed vocational training or upgrading courses; 406 experts of the GDR worked in the least developed countries within the framework of aid activities. In the same year, 317 nationals from those States received free medical treatment or care in the GDR.

8. At the multilateral level, the GDR supports efforts by the United Nations designed to strengthen the scientific and technical potential of the developing countries. In co-operation with United Nations bodies and agencies, it organized 14 training courses in 1987, in such areas, inter alia, as industrial planning, the use of isotopes, civil engineering, radiopharmacology, and seismology. These courses were attended by some 250 nationals of developing countries.

9. The GDR regards equality based economic, scientific and technological co-operation with developing countries as a main way of assisting them in their efforts towards industrialization, improvement of agricultural production and overcoming economic difficulties. The following facts and figures illustrate that co-operation:

In 1987, the foreign trade turnover of the GDR with developing countries totalled 12,956.0 million foreign exchange marks. The developing countries' share of the overall foreign trade turnover of the GDR was 7.3 per cent. Imports of finished and semi-finished products from developing countries accounted for 43.3 per cent of the GDR's overall imports from these States. Compared with the previous year, this represents an increase of 1.8 per cent.

Increasingly, the GDR sells licences to developing countries to help advance their national economies. In 1987, 66 licence agreements were concluded with 24 developing countries.

The construction of factories and plants, including the transfer of relevant know-how and the training of the required skilled workforce, has come to play a growing role in economic co-operation between the GDR and developing countries. In 1987, 32 plants built with GDR assistance were completed in developing countries. On 1 January 1988, 59 projects were under way in 25 developing countries. Furthermore, the realization of another 19 projects in 11 developing countries was agreed upon last year.

In 1987, the contractual system with developing countries in economic fields was widened by an agreement on economic and technological co-operation with the People's Republic of Angola. As of 31 December 1987, 64 trade agreements, 5 payments agreements, 33 agreements on scientific and technological co-operation, and 59 agreements in the field of economic, scientific and industrial co-operation had been concluded.

There exist joint economic committees with 15 developing countries and mixed commissions with 34 developing countries.

In the area of maritime traffic, 24 agreements are currently in force with developing countries. Mutual goods exchanges are handled by 16 liner services between the GDR and developing countries.

10. The German Democratic Republic will, within the scope of its possibilities, render assistance also in future to all peoples fighting for national and social liberation.

In line with the aims and principles of its foreign policy, the German Democratic Republic will continue to stand for the implementation of the right of peoples to national sovereignty and self-determination, work for peace and disarmament, support the efforts of developing countries for overcoming economic difficulties and achieving economic independence, and contribute to the democratization of international economic relations.